Summary of the Air-Water Interface Work Plan

The purpose of the work plan is to outline a schedule of specific activities that EPA's Office of Air and Radiation and Office of Water are committing to undertake using the authorities of both the CAA and the CWA. This collaborative effort will help to coordinate these Offices' programs and to track EPA's progress in assessing and reducing, as needed, atmospheric deposition of toxics and nitrogen to all waterbodies in the United States. The pollutants targeted are the same as the Great Waters Program pollutants of concern including air toxics and nitrogen.

General strategy

1) Continue to reduce the national loadings of pollutants of concern through implementation of existing CAA rules and promulgation of additional regulations on emissions sources.
2) Work with States to support the development and implementation of atmospheric deposition focused TMDLs.
3) Improve and expand the monitoring network for pollutants, emissions inventories and our modeling abilities.
4) Communicate about air deposition issues with a variety of audiences.

Air Toxics

How we are currently addressing the problem:

1. *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)*
2. *National Technology-Based Standards* - Section 112 (d) of the CAA
3. *Solid Waste Combustion Standards* - Section 129 of the CAA
4. *Residual Risk Standards* - Section 112(f) of the CAA
5. *Area Source Standards* - Section 112 (k) of the CAA
6. *Seven Specific Pollutants* - Section 112(c)(6) of the CAA
7. *Utility Determination and Actions* - December 15th determination.
8. *Mobile Source Standards* - Section 202(l), EPA expects to issue a final rule by Dec. 2000.
9. *Water Quality Criteria Standards* - Under the Clean Water Act (CWA), review and revise reference dose for mercury, new water quality human health criterion for methylmercury.
10. *Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics Initiative (PBTI)*
11. *Toxic Air Deposition Monitoring* - MDN (NADP), NEP and, IADN
12. *Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring* - Air Toxics Monitoring Strategy, NDAMN
13. *Consolidated Emission Reporting Rule (CERR)* - The rule was proposed on May 23, 2000.
14. *Tool Development* - inventories and models (TRIMfate, Models3 and etc)

Challenges to further addressing toxics problem

EPA still does not have good source-receptor relationships. There is a need for more refined emissions inventories, more and better monitoring, and national scale and local scale modeling to better identify what is the relative contribution of sources which emit pollutants, how much of each pollutant gets deposited, and how much of what is deposited creates water quality problems.

Actions to address these challenges:

1. *National Toxics Inventory (NTI)* - guidance to and working closely with State, local and Tribal agencies on how to develop an emission inventory for HAPs.
2. *National Air Toxics Deposition Assessment Activities* - modeling and support activities, and evaluation of results (monitoring).

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Nitrogen Compounds

How we are currently addressing this problem:

1. *Title IV Acid Rain Program NO_X reductions*
2. *NO_X SIP Call, Section 126 Petitions, and Federal Implementation Plans*
3. *New Source Performance Standards*
4. *New Source Review and RACT*
5. *Regional Haze Rule*
6. *Mobile Source Control*
7. *Total Maximum Daily Load Program (TMDL)*
8. *Water Quality Criteria for Nutrients*
9. *Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)*
10. *Measuring economic and environmental benefits pilot*
11. *Consolidated Emission Reporting Rule (CERR)*

Challenges to further addressing this environmental problem.

With the increase of anthropogenic sources of nitrogen, it is often difficult to determine, on the local level, the extent to which nitrogen deposition is a problem and where the problem is originating. A primary challenge is to understand both national deposition trends, while being able to characterize the air deposition problem at the regional, state, local and watershed levels.

Actions we plan to address the challenges:

1. *Monitoring* - National Atmospheric Deposition Network (NADP), Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNet).
2. *Assessment activities* - In the context of various policy analysis activities, EPA is using models to estimate nitrogen deposition in local/regional areas and to relate nitrogen deposition information to specific watersheds. Specific assessment activities planned are: NAPAP Report to Congress and Nitrogen deposition assessment

Education, Outreach and Scientific Exchange

Current education and outreach activities:

1. *Great Waters Reports to Congress*
2. *Air-Water Initiative* - OW Initiative, coordinator position and outreach activities
3. *Nitrogen Brochure*
4. *Scientific Workshops*

Challenges to Address:

Environmental managers need training to better understand how to evaluate whether they have an air deposition problem, and if so how to better characterize the air deposition problem. They also need help determining the best way to address the problem once it has been identified.

Actions we plan to address these challenges:

1. *Training* - EPA is planning to offer regional training workshops
2. *Handbook for water resource managers*
3. *Ecological Assessment Handbook for States and Tribal Nations*

4. *Website Development*
5. *Scientific Workshops*